

120 W. PENNSYLVANIA AVE.

Although not on its original site, the Italianate residence is considered to be one of the best preserved mid-19th century structures on Courthouse Square. A splendid example of the Italianate style, this house is a valuable document of that period when the Courthouse and the square around it were surrounded not only by banks and lawyers offices, but by homes such as this one built in the latest fashions.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA - 1431
MAG-0314314508

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC

AND/OR COMMON

120 Pennsylvania Avenue, Calvary Parsonage

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER

120 Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT

Ninth

STATE

Maryland

COUNTY

Baltimore

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

—DISTRICT

*BUILDING(S)

—STRUCTURE

—SITE

—OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

—PUBLIC

*PRIVATE

—BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

—IN PROCESS

—BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

*OCCUPIED

—UNOCCUPIED

—WORK IN PROGRESS

ACCESSIBLE

*YES: RESTRICTED

—YES: UNRESTRICTED

—NO

PRESENT USE

—AGRICULTURE

—COMMERCIAL

—EDUCATIONAL

—ENTERTAINMENT

—GOVERNMENT

—INDUSTRIAL

—MILITARY

—MUSEUM

—PARK

*PRIVATE RESIDENCE

—RELIGIOUS

—SCIENTIFIC

—TRANSPORTATION

—OTHER:

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME

Calvary Baptist Church

Telephone #:

STREET & NUMBER

Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

— VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code

Maryland 21204

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,

REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. Baltimore County Courthouse

Liber #: 3978

Folio #: 548

STREET & NUMBER

Pennsylvania Avenue

CITY, TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

—FEDERAL —STATE —COUNTY —LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

BA-1431

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION		CHECK ONE	CHECK ONE
<input type="checkbox"/> EXCELLENT	<input type="checkbox"/> DETERIORATED	<input type="checkbox"/> UNALTERED	<input type="checkbox"/> ORIGINAL SITE
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> GOOD	<input type="checkbox"/> RUINS	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ALTERED	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> MOVED
<input type="checkbox"/> FAIR	<input type="checkbox"/> UNEXPOSED		DATE <u>Jan., 1978</u>

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

The south or main facade of this Italianate house is three bays wide. The house is two stories high and is covered with unusually wide (7") bevel siding, (Old German siding). The house rests on an uncoarsed stone foundation and the roof of the house is made of a type of flat metal which may be the original roofing material.

On this south facade there is a single story porch which is as wide as the house. The roof of the porch is supported by four square chamfered columns.

The two windows on the first story are large 4/6 sash windows which are surrounded by wooden shutters. The windows are probably original to the house because of the wavy appearance of the glass panes. There is a four-panel door with a four light transom above the door and three light casements on either side of the door.

The second story has three 4/4 sash windows with shutters on either side of the windows. Because of the southern exposure, high ceilings and large windows the rooms of the main block are spacious and bright.

The roof of the house is covered with ribbed sheet metal and the roof has bracketed eaves which are characteristic of Italianate buildings.

The east facade of the main block of the house is two bays deep. The two windows in this main block are 4/4 sash and there are two three light casement windows in the ground level of the main block. The second story fenestration is two 4/4 sash windows as in the first story of the house.

The east facade then has an additional bay to the north as a result of the single story addition. The house is then extended two more bays to the north facade of the house.

The fenestration in the first additional bay is very unusual. The full effect of sunlight on this east facade is made possible by a forty light casement window which surrounds a door with a transom. This facade could almost be used as a greenhouse because of the morning sun it receives. The placement of these windows and this additional bay makes an enclosed porch as witnessed on the interior by the bevel siding. This addition is not original to the house as evidenced by the interior bevel siding which is older than the siding on the outside of the addition.

The north facade is two bays wide. There are two doors placed on this facade. The door on the northeast side of the north facade is a 1/1 panel door. The door to the northwest corner is a six-light casement window above a three-panel wooden bottom.

The second story of the main block can be seen from the north facade. There is a small four-light casement window in the northeast corner of the second story. The brick interior chimney can be seen from this north facade.

The west facade of the building is three irregular bays deep. As witnessed in the east facade, the additional bays make this facade and the east facade seem irregular in design.

The first story window has three 4/4 sash windows with shutters on either side of the window. The second floor has an outside entrance. There is a small porch outside the door that is supported by two long, narrow railings.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

On entering the house there is a side hall. An open-well switchback staircase takes one to the second floor. There is one turned newel post at the bottom of the stairs. The staircase has scrollwork carving on the steps similar to the scrollwork on the switchback staircase in 30 West Pennsylvania Avenue.

The room that appears to have been the parlor has an interior end chimney which projects 18" into the room and is 5'4" wide. This chimney space is similar to the one which could have been in 30 W. Pennsylvania Ave.

The parlor has a ceiling which is 9' high. There is a rather high and wide baseboard around the room. The height of this baseboard is 10". A chair rail that measures 3'3" in height decorates all four walls.

This parlor has two four-panel doors. The door in the northwest corner of the room, which now leads to a closet, once had an enclosed string staircase within it, according to Reverend Leland Higginbotham, who witnessed the renovation of the building, and there is some structural evidence to support this claim.

Beyond the parlor there is an enclosed porch on the northeast side of the house. There is 7" wide bevel or Old German siding in this room. At one time this porch may have had some relationship to a kitchen, which would have been at the rear of the house.

The second floor requires a multi-level staircase with a landing and one step into the main hall. This is similar to the landing that is in 30 W. Pennsylvania Avenue. Although a bit awkward, this feature might be read as a solution to the design problem caused by the joining of two sections of different heights. Since the north wing appears to be original in both buildings, this feature may also be seen as a stylistic trait.

The second floor has a trapezoidal ceiling as does the north wing of 30 W. Pennsylvania Avenue. In what appears to have been the master bedroom, the ceiling is 9'9" high and again a chair rail decorates the walls. In this room the ceiling is extremely high as are the windows.

In the basement level the uncoarsed stone foundation is apparent. This is a full basement and there is evidence of a chimney support in the north wing of the basement. In the ceiling one can see vertically sawn joists which were probably placed every 18".

Throughout the house there are several porcelain door knobs with metal box locks. Many of the original windows are still in the house as evidenced by the wavy glass panes. The moldings around the doors also seem to be original to the house.

Bridgebuilder's Cabin

This small cabin was built by a Sunday school class in the 1930's. According to Reverend Leland Higginbotham, there was an architect involved who helped with design plans, but the cabin was built by the students.

This small cabin is one story with a central pediment. The cinder block base measures 52" high. The upper portion of the cabin is constructed with frame and clapboards. The cabin has a shingle roof and measures 22' in width and 24' in length.

The south or main facade is five bays wide. There are four 6/6 sash windows and a door on this facade. The central pediment has a small 6/6 sash window that is centrally located.

In the east facade there is evidence of an exterior side chimney of modern cinder block construction. A small addition is apparent at the northeast corner of this facade.

The north facade is four bays wide. There is one door at the center of this facade, a six-light casement window at the northwest side of this facade and two eight-light casement windows at the northeast side of the facade.

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The west facade is five bays wide. There are four 6/6 sash windows and a three-light casement window above a two-panel wood section of the door. In the addition there are four 6/6 sash windows.

The interior of the building has very simplistic moldings on each wall. There is one fireplace with a simulated hewn mantel. The fireplace is rather large and it measures 3' high and $4\frac{1}{2}$ ' wide.

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> *RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> *1800-1899	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY)	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

120 Pennsylvania Avenue is a significant house because as one of the best preserved of five Italianate buildings in Towson it can teach us ~~so~~ much about a particular style important to the architectural history of this town.

This house is an extremely well preserved Italianate example as is witnessed from the outside by the bracketed eaves, hipped roof, vertical thrust, and central block.

Many of the original features of the house are still intact. There are original windows in the house. Among the original details in the house are porcelain door knobs, metal box locks, the turned newel post of the switchback staircase and the flat metal roof. All of these features are worthy of preservation because they contribute to a total object which in both general appearance and detailing is expressive of a particular period.

Of further significance, given the fact that the Italianate style enjoyed a period of being fashionable and the location of the house on the north side of Courthouse Square, this building may be seen as a visual statement of social status because of its style and location, the fashionable trend of the architecture and the geographic prominence of the house on the north side of the Courthouse.

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9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATA

ACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY _____

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

See Attachment

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

STATE _____ COUNTY _____

11 FORM PREPARED BY

WAYNE L. NIELD, II
HISTORIC TOWSON, INC.

NAME / TITLE

Melanie Butler-Student Surveyor

ORGANIZATION

Historic Towson Inc.

DATE

January 19, 1978

STREET & NUMBER

Goucher College

TELEPHONE

825-3300

CITY OR TOWN

Towson

STATE

Maryland

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
Annapolis, Maryland 21401
(301) 267-1438

OUTBUILDINGS IN TOWSON

Outbuildings are important in understanding pre-modern lifestyles. In the area of transportation for example it is easy to overlook the number of buildings and other structures which have come into existence with the development of the combustion engine. These would include not only the home garage and gas station but heavier bridges and hard top roads as well as a host of "drive-in" stores and entertainments.

Although not as extensive or explosive, the same may be said of the age of horse travel and its buildings and structures. An understanding of Towson in the second half of the 19th century would be incomplete without realizing the number of stables necessary for housing horses and wagons. Neither the Hopkins nor Bromley Atlases indicate chicken houses, privies, etc., but they do show that quite a few homes had stables and barns behind them. The Hopkins Atlas of 1877, for example, shows over forty stables in central Towson. The Bromley Atlas of 1898 shows most of these still in existence with an additional twenty or so having been built in the meantime. All but one of these outbuildings are indicated as being of wood construction. Most of these were probably frame although it is known that the Bowen House for example had several log outbuildings. In 1850 there were stone outbuildings at Epsom and there was a stone spring-house behind the Towson Tavern but the only masonry barn/stable indicated by Bromley is a large brick structure on the southwest corner of Delaware and Pennsylvania Avenues. Hopkins appears to indicate the same structure in 1877.

Title Search

BA-1431

Liber 3978, Folio 548 April 17, 1962
grantor-Campbell Building Inc.
grantee-Nottingham Farms Inc.

Liber 2649, Folio 393 February 18, 1955
grantor-Julia R. Emory, Jr., Elizabeth O. Emory, Charles Ridgely
Emory, Jr., and Shirley V. Emory (his wife)
grantee-Campbell Building Inc.

Liber of Wills 43, Folio 494 February 13, 1950
grantor-Charles Ridgely Emory
grantee-Charles Ridgely Emory, Jr., Martha Virginia Emory (his wife)

Liber of Wills 35, Folio 139 April 10, 1939
grantor-Hopper Emory
grantee-Elizabeth Emory

Liber 906, Folio 391 February 13, 1933
grantor-Sarah S. Emory
grantee-Hopper Emory, Julia R. Emory, Jr., Elizabeth O. Emory,
Charles Ridgely Emory

Liber 906, Folio 576 August 4, 1932
mortgagor-Jerome H. Ritz and Bertha Ritz
mortgagee-Home Owners Loan Corporation

Liber 877, Folio 177 March 16, 1931
grantor-Deborah F. Clash, Elizabeth F. Mitchell, Margaret Feddeman
grantee-Sarah S. Emory

Anne Arundel County Will Record For December 15, 1926 (not available)

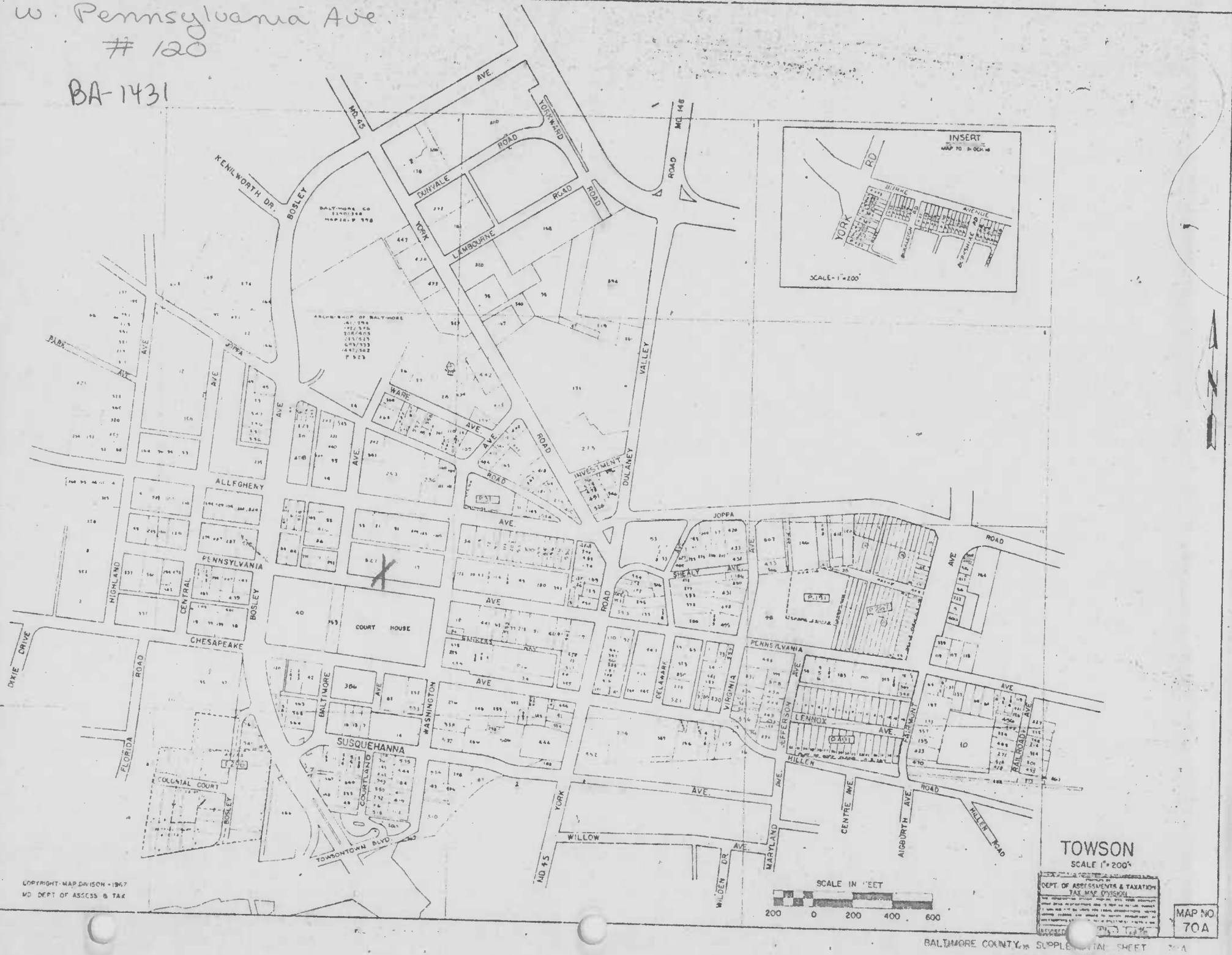
Liber of Wills 18, Folio 424 February 27, 1916
grantor-D. Hopper Emory
grantee-Julia R. Emory

Liber 71, Folio 334 July 6, 1871
grantor-Washington and Elizabeth Townsend
grantee-D. Hopper Emory

Liber 61, Folio 243 February 16, 1869
grantor-Washington and Elizabeth Townsend
grantee-D. Hopper Emory

w. Pennsylvania Ave.
120

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120 W. PENNA. AVE.
S.E. CORNER

W. NIELD
1/78



BA-1431

BRIDGE BLDRS. CARVIN
S.

W. NIELD
1/78



BA-1431

120 W. PENNA AVE
S.W. CORNER

1/78
W. NIED